

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 31, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

E28
Greatest activity was seen with preparations of SOM175 absent exon 6 (SOM_ΔX6) on mouse astroglial cell cultures, where there was a significant stimulus to their proliferation when delivered in conjunction with heparin (Figures 16A-16C). Little stimulus was given to the proliferation of oligodendroglial cells Figures (17A-17C), and very little discernable potentiation of the survival response of isolated forebrain neurons (Figure 18).

The standard deviation on all three graphs for each point was less than 8%.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 43-45 without prejudice.

Please add the following new Claims:

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46. (New) A process for the production of biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 3 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B.

47. (New) A process for the production of a biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 5 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B.

48. (New) A process for the production of a biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 7 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B.

49. (New) A process for the production of a biologically active VEGF-B, said

method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 9 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B.

50. (New) A process for the production of biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NOS: 3, 5, 7 and 9 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B, wherein said high stringency conditions comprise 0.1-1X SSC/0.1% w/v SDS at 60°C for 1-3 hours.

51. (New) A process for the production of biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:3 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B, wherein said high stringency conditions comprise 0.1-1X SSC/0.1% w/v SDS at 60°C for 1-3 hours.

52. (New) A process for the production of biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:5 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B, wherein said high stringency conditions comprise 0.1-1X SSC/0.1% w/v SDS at 60°C for 1-3 hours.

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53. (New) A process for the production of biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:7 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B, wherein said high stringency conditions comprise 0.1-1X SSC/0.1% w/v SDS at 60°C for 1-3 hours.

54. (New) A process for the production of biologically active VEGF-B, said

method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:9 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B, wherein said high stringency conditions comprise 0.1-1X SSC/0.1% w/v SDS at 60°C for 1-3 hours.

55. (New) The process according to any one of Claims 43, 46, 50 or 51
wherein said VEGF-B is human VEGF-B.

E 29
Cont
56. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

57. (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

58. (New) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 7, 2001, Claims 26-28, 30 and 43 are allowed. The Declaration has been objected to because of alleged informalities. The drawings have been objected to pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.84(u)(1) as allegedly lacking proper reference to the Figures. The Examiner has objected to the title. Claims 44-45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

In response to the above rejections, applicants have amended the claims and added additional claims, which when considered with the accompanying comments is deemed to place the present application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has objected to the declaration as allegedly illegible, in part. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the Post Office Address for Gunther Weber is illegible.